

Members

Rep. Greg Porter, Chairperson  
Rep. Paul Robertson  
Rep. David Orentlicher  
Rep. Robert Behning  
Rep. Phyllis Pond  
Rep. Jeffrey Thompson  
Sen. Ron Alting, Vice-Chairperson  
Sen. Gary Dillon  
Sen. Jeff Drozda  
Sen. Billie Breaux  
Sen. Connie Sipes  
Sen. Timothy Skinner



## INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ISSUES

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Authority: Legislative Council Resolution 04-01

### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date: October 26, 2004  
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.  
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington  
St., Room 404  
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana  
Meeting Number: 4

**Members Present:** Rep. Greg Porter, Chairperson; Rep. David Orentlicher; Rep. Jeffrey Thompson; Sen. Ron Alting, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Jeff Drozda; Sen. Billie Breaux; Sen. Timothy Skinner.

**Members Absent:** Rep. Paul Robertson; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Sen. Gary Dillon; Sen. Connie Sipes.

Representative Porter called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. Gail Zeharalis, Indiana State Teachers Association, was called to present testimony.

#### HB 1861 (2003)

Ms. Zeharalis distributed information (Exhibits A - C) concerning: (1) HB 1861, (2) declining ISTEP passing scores, and (3) strategies to eliminate achievement gaps. Ms.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Zeharalis discussed how some of the educational mandates could be achieved and funded by some of the components of HB 1861, which include: (1) an optional school income tax, (2) changing the compulsory school attendance age from age 7 - 16 to age 6 - 17, (3) the Common Core 30 curriculum, (4) the Work Prep diploma, (5) parent compacts, (6) the creation of the Commission for Superior Academic Achievement by All Students, (7) academic standards progress reports, (8) tutoring programs, (9) academic progress assistance plans, (10) supplemental reading and writing programs, (11) the Primetime II program, (12) an increase in instructional time, and (13) a curriculum audit.

In response to questions from Committee members, Ms. Zeharalis stated that the Indiana Education Roundtable has addressed many issues concerning closing the achievement gap through its P-16 Plan. She also stated that the Indiana State Teachers Association's Task Force has embraced strategies to eliminate the achievement gap, which include: (1) using data-driven planning for curriculum and instruction, (2) providing tutoring for students who do not pass the ISTEP, (3) reducing actual class sizes, (4) assigning a high quality teacher to every classroom, (5) requiring parental involvement compacts, and (6) requiring intensive, comprehensive reading and writing instruction and curriculum.

The Committee discussed the following issues concerning HB 1861 (2003): (1) the decline in passing ISTEP scores, (2) the possibility of taking certain items from HB 1861 and drafting legislation based on those items. The Committee also discussed preparing legislation for introduction during the 2005 session of the General Assembly based on some components of HB 1861 (2003).

Representative Porter distributed to Committee members a draft resolution (Exhibit D) urging all businesses, youth advocates and community leaders to participate in school-based mentoring programs. There was committee discussion based on the resolution and the committee agreed to recommend the resolution with amendments to be submitted to the 2005 session of the General Assembly.

The Committee discussed embracing the movement toward increasing the academic achievements of Indiana students by increasing required classes for graduation in English, math, and science. However, the Committee had concerns with the recommendations by the Indiana Education Roundtable concerning making Core 40 the default curriculum for high school graduation. The Committee believes that the channeling of students towards additional math, English, and science courses without extending the school day may continue to cause the elimination of many elective courses offered by schools and close many options for students to explore other areas of study.

The Committee discussed the shortfall in the amount of funds available for achieving state and federal educational mandates and recommendations to the Indiana Department of Education to address the shortfall.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.